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GROWING INSTRUCTIONS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

It takes many months to grow an African Violet from propagation to blooming, so be kind to your plant. If you will follow these instructions you will be successful:

1. Remove your plants from package carefully. In repotting knock off as little soil as possible.
2. Plant in a 3" pot. The additional soil which you add should be made up of $\frac{1}{3}$ leaf mold, $\frac{1}{3}$ sand and $\frac{1}{3}$ peat moss. Fill your pot within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of top. However, we recommend Afri-Gro, a perfect balanced potting soil for African Violets, prepared and sold by us at 65c for a 2 lb. package, postpaid. ~~Price of all varieties of African Violets are \$1.00 per plant.~~
3. We suggest the use of clay pots and bottom watering. Put water in bowl, set the pot in the water and let it soak through the soil. Just use enough water to moisten the soil. *Never* let your soil become soaking wet. If there is any excess water left in the saucer, pour it out. If water is dropped on the leaves, remove the plant to a shady location until leaves are thoroughly dry. Always use tepid water.
4. Never let the sun shine directly on your plant. Keep your plant on a bright window sill. If the sun rays become too bright, break the rays with a thin curtain.
5. Never let the room temperature go below 65 degrees.
6. African Violets are subject to mealy bugs. If you see a white spot that looks like absorbent cotton under the leaves or at the stem crotch take a small piece of cotton on the end of a match stick or toothpick, dip it in denatured alcohol and just touch the mealy bug lightly. You will have to watch your plants every few days for a while, and continue the procedure until the mealy bugs are all dead. We also suggest brushing the leaves with a soft, dry brush once each week which helps keep your plant clean and healthy.
7. Plants may be started from mature leaves and stems broken from the parent plant. These stems, placed in a sandy soil, about one inch deep, in a slanting position and kept moist, will start producing roots in a few weeks. At the end of this period, remove the stem from the sand and plant in a small pot of soil made from a mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ sand and $\frac{1}{2}$ Afri Gro. In a short time you will see the tiny plants breaking through the soil. When these have grown about 1 inch high, remove the leaf and stem and let the plant continue to grow.

We would appreciate a card from you advising us in what condition your plants arrived.

Good Luck!

VIRGINIA LEE GARDENS

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